

JAMES PATTERSON

# MAX RIDE

FINAL FLIGHT



004

**MARVEL**

HOUSER  
FAILLA  
ROSENBERG  
KNIIVILA

**DNA**  
7.15

**MAXIMUM RIDE** DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HER PAST.

SHE KNOWS ABOUT THE **LAB** WHERE SHE WAS GIVEN WINGS AND THE ABILITY TO FLY. SHE KNOWS ABOUT **JEB**, THE MAN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPERIMENTING ON HER. SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS TO PROTECT THE REST OF **THE FLOCK** -- **FANG**, **NUDGE**, **IGGY**, **GASMAN**, AND **ANGEL** -- AT ALL COSTS.

AND SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS ONE MISSION: TO SAVE THE WORLD.

JAMES PATTERSON

# MAX RIDE

## FINAL FLIGHT

ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL *MAXIMUM RIDE: SAVING THE WORLD AND OTHER EXTREME SPORTS* BY JAMES PATTERSON



**MAXIMUM RIDE** AND THE **FLOCK** HAD BEEN LIVING A PEACEFUL, IF NOMADIC, EXISTENCE, BELIEVING THE THREAT OF THE ITEX CORPORATION WAS BEHIND THEM. MAX AND **FANG** WENT OFF IN SEARCH OF A PERMANENT HOME, BUT THE REST OF THE FLOCK WAS KIDNAPPED IN THEIR ABSENCE. THE SEARCH FOR THEIR FAMILY LANDED MAX AND FANG AS PRISONERS, TOO, BUT THE WHOLE CREW ESCAPED WITH THE HELP OF **ARI**, AN ERASER AND FORMER ENEMY OF THE FLOCK.

FREE ONCE MORE, THE FLOCK SPLIT INTO TWO FACTIONS, WITH FANG, **IGGY**, AND **GAZZY** TRAVELING TO SPREAD THE WORD OF THEIR ONGOING STRUGGLE VIA THE MEDIA, WHILE MAX, **ANGEL**, **NUDGE**, **TOTAL**, AND **ARI** TOOK THE FIGHT TO ITEX'S VARIOUS FACILITIES. WHILE SNEAKING IN TO THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS, MAX AND HER TEAM WERE SPOTTED BY ITEX'S **DIRECTOR**, WHO JUST SPLIT MAX'S WORLD APART WITH A SHOCKING REVELATION...

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I ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW WHO MY REAL PARENTS WERE.

UNLIKE THE OTHERS, I NEVER FOUND ANY CLUES POINTING TO WHERE I CAME FROM.

AND NOW, THIS... **MONSTER** WHO WANTS TO KILL OFF HALF THE WORLD IS CLAIMING I CAME FROM **HER?!**

NO...NO WAY YOU'RE MY MOTHER. I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.



OH, MY DEAR MAXIMUM RIDE.

YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW HOW MUCH THE TRUTH CAN **HURT**.



FOR EXAMPLE,  
YOU THOUGHT  
YOU AND YOUR  
FRIENDS WERE SO  
STRONG. SO  
**SPECIAL.**

BUT YOU'RE  
NOTHING MORE  
THAN A **ROUGH  
DRAFT.** AN  
EXPERIMENT TO  
BE STUDIED  
AND CAST  
ASIDE.



THERE'S  
NO PLACE  
FOR YOU IN THE  
NEW WORLD  
ORDER.

TAKE THEM  
DOWNSTAIRS.

SHE BETTER  
BE LYING  
ABOUT BEING  
MY MOTHER.

OR IT'S GOING TO BE  
**REALLY** AWKWARD FOR  
HER WHEN I STOMP  
HER INTO THE GROUND.

I'M THE ONE  
WHO GOT US ALL  
INTO THIS MESS.

A VOICE IN MY HEAD HAS BEEN  
DROPPING HINTS THAT THE  
WORLD WAS GOING TO END.  
THAT I WAS THE ONLY ONE  
WHO COULD STOP IT.



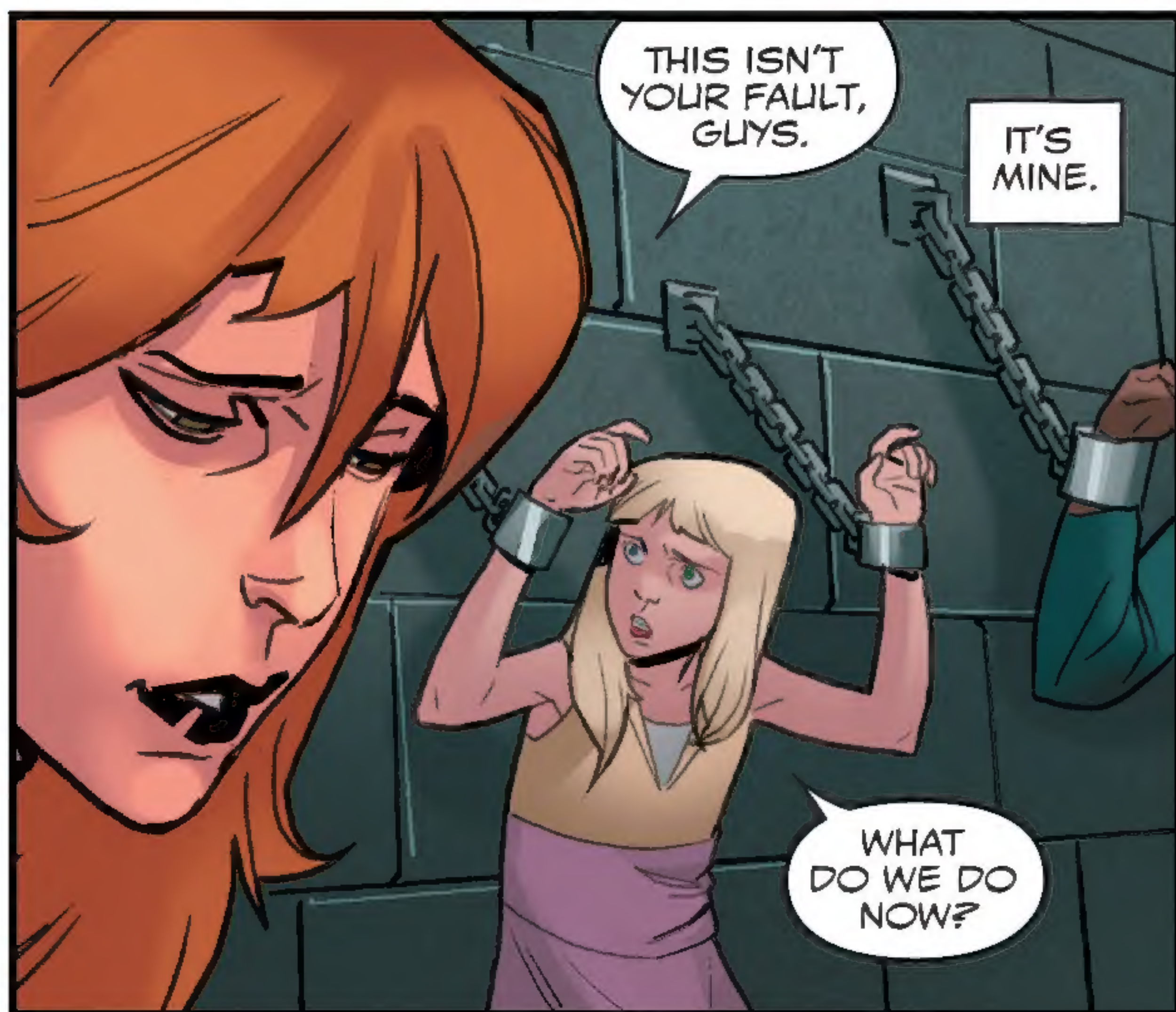
I THOUGHT  
THAT'S WHAT WE  
WERE COMING  
HERE TO DO.

BUT ALL I'VE DONE  
IS PUT US IN YET  
ANOTHER CAGE.

I'M SORRY,  
MAX. I WANTED TO  
STOP THEM BUT THEY  
DON'T HAVE MINDS  
AT ALL.

BIG STUPID  
ROBOTS.

AND I THINK  
THEY'RE OPERATED  
REMOTELY. NO  
COMPUTERS INSIDE  
TO TALK TO.



THIS ISN'T  
YOUR FAULT,  
GUYS.

IT'S  
MINE.

WHAT  
DO WE DO  
NOW?



I DON'T  
KNOW.

I  
DON'T KNOW  
ANYMORE...



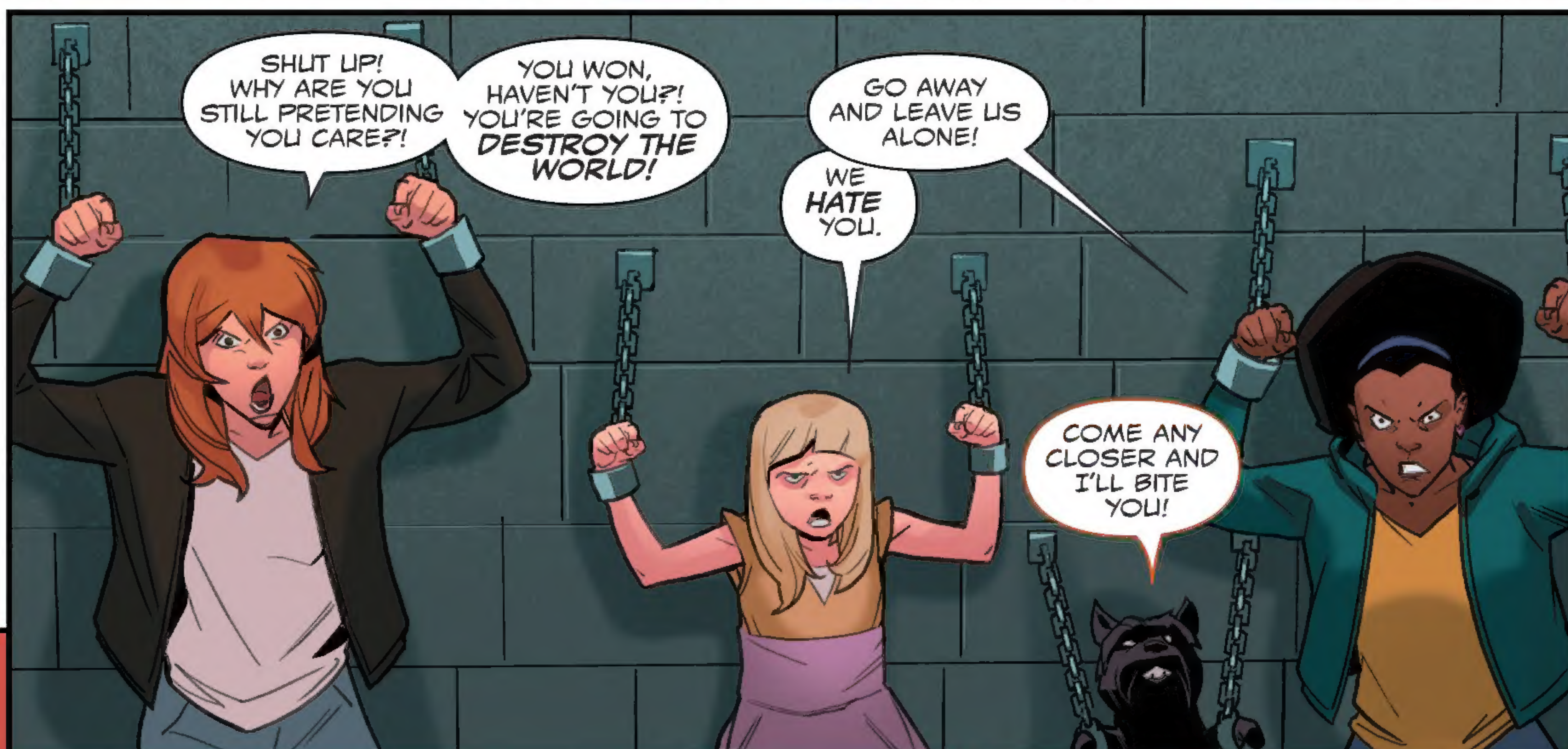
MAX.  
I HEARD  
YOU AND YOUR  
FRIENDS  
WERE--

SAVE  
IT.



WHATEVER  
LIES YOU'RE GOING  
TO SPIN THIS TIME,  
JEB, I DON'T WANT  
TO HEAR THEM.

I JUST  
WANTED  
TO MAKE SURE  
YOU WERE  
ALL RIGHT.



SHUT UP!  
WHY ARE YOU  
STILL PRETENDING  
YOU CARE?!

YOU WON,  
HAVEN'T YOU?!  
YOU'RE GOING TO  
**DESTROY THE  
WORLD!**

GO AWAY  
AND LEAVE US  
ALONE!

WE  
**HATE**  
YOU.

COME ANY  
CLOSER AND  
I'LL BITE  
YOU!

OF  
COURSE  
I CARE.

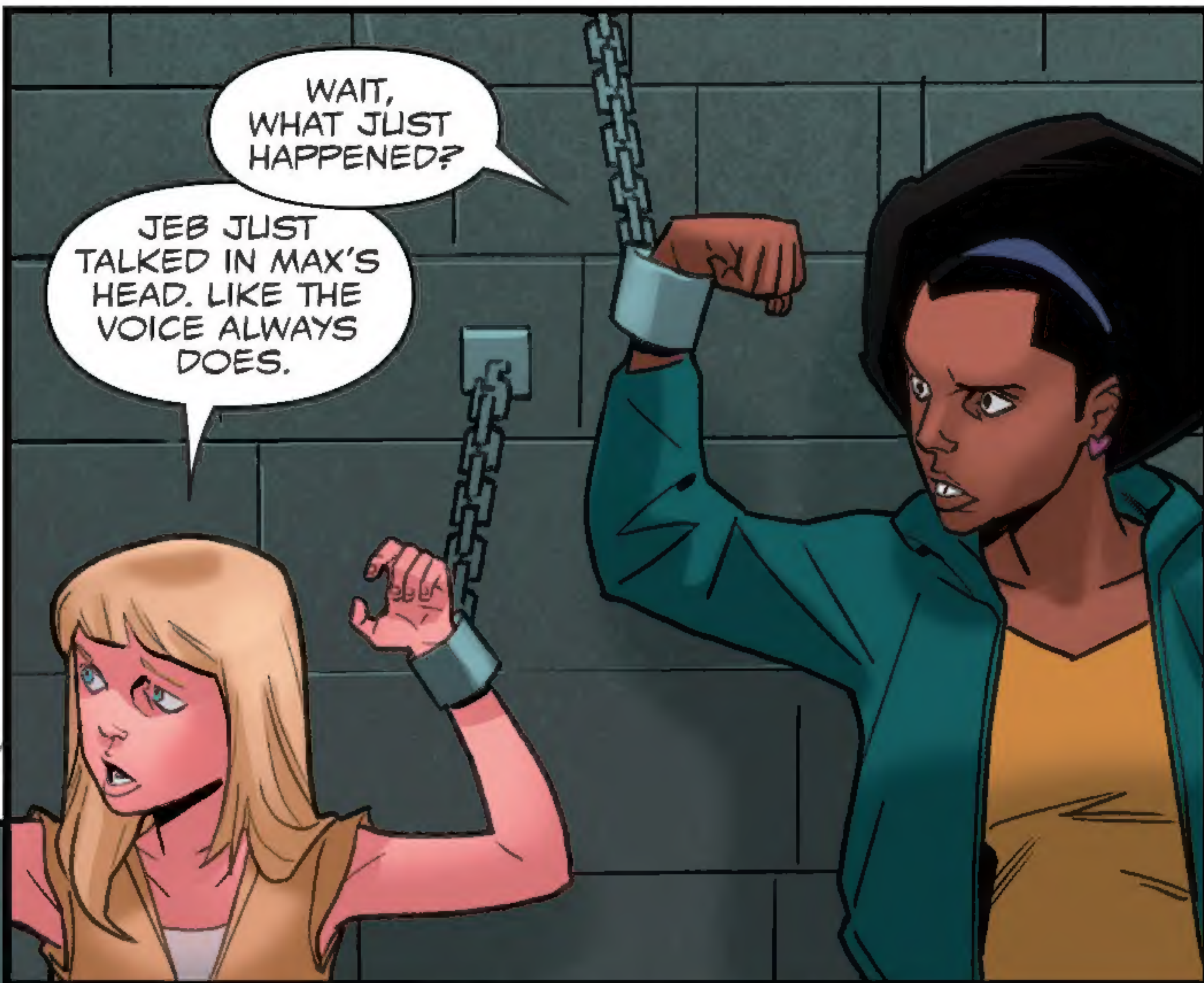
I'VE  
ALWAYS CARED  
ABOUT YOU, MAX.  
AND I ALWAYS  
WILL.

I'VE ALWAYS  
CARED ABOUT  
YOU, MAX. AND I  
ALWAYS WILL.

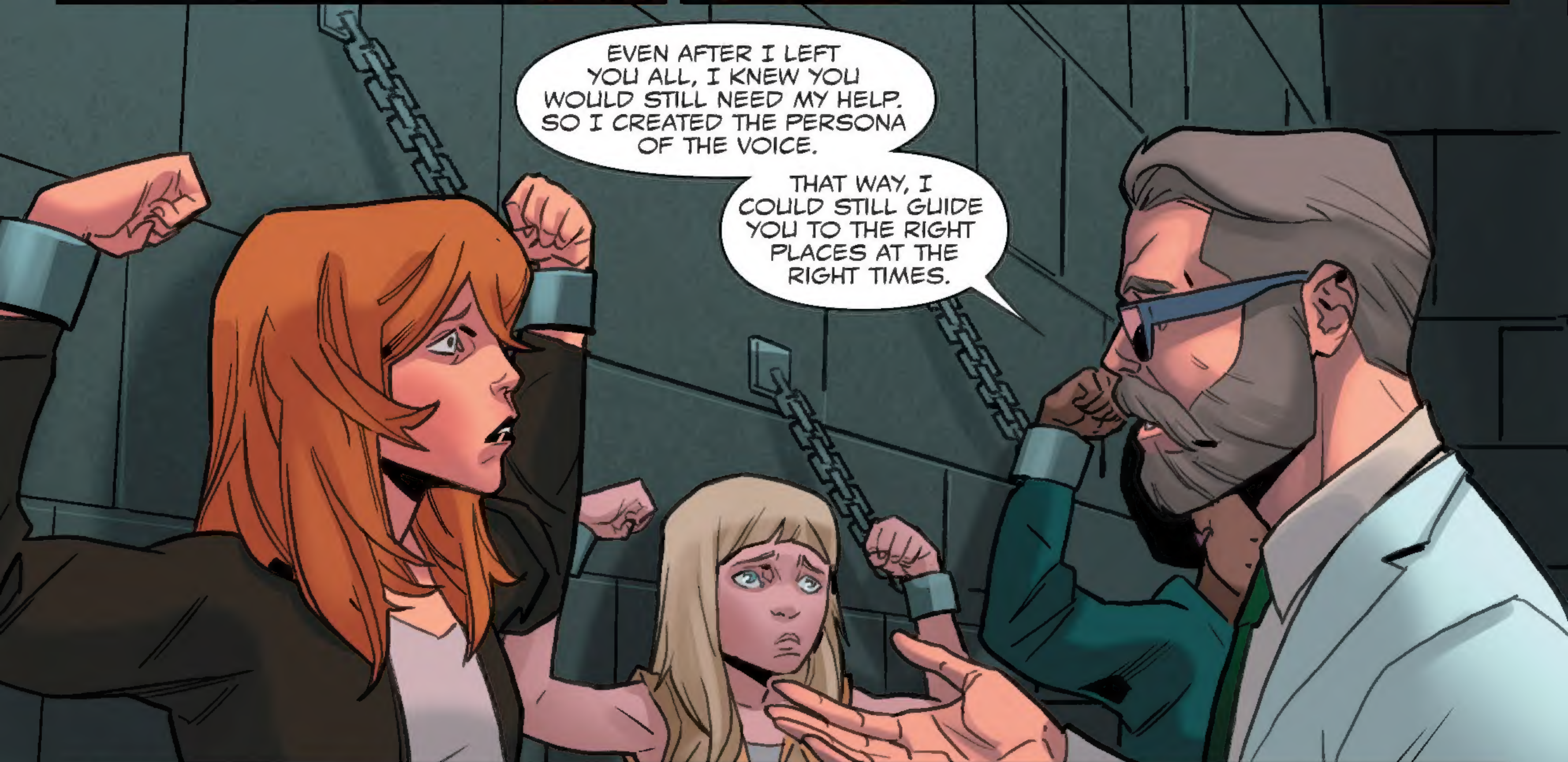




YOU...  
YOU'RE THE VOICE?!



WAIT,  
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?  
JEB JUST TALKED IN MAX'S HEAD. LIKE THE VOICE ALWAYS DOES.



EVEN AFTER I LEFT YOU ALL, I KNEW YOU WOULD STILL NEED MY HELP. SO I CREATED THE PERSONA OF THE VOICE.

THAT WAY, I COULD STILL GUIDE YOU TO THE RIGHT PLACES AT THE RIGHT TIMES.



YOU CAN STILL SAVE THE WORLD. YOU CAN SAVE THEM ALL.

DON'T GIVE UP JUST YET.



WHY IS HE TELLING ME THIS NOW?

AND AFTER ALL THE TIMES HE'S BETRAYED AND USED US, HOW CAN HE EXPECT ME TO TRUST HIM?

HE DIDN'T EVEN SAY HI TO ME.



HE'S MY DAD. AND HE WAS RIGHT THERE. AND HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

IT'S ALMOST MY **EXPIRATION DATE**. AND HE DOESN'T EVEN CARE.

ARI...

I WAS ALWAYS JEALOUS OF YOU AND THE FLOCK. HE SPENT SO MUCH TIME WITH YOU.

I THOUGHT THAT WHEN HE MADE ME BIG AND STRONG LIKE THIS, HE WOULD LIKE ME MORE.

I WAS KIND OF JEALOUS OF YOU TOO, WHEN YOU WERE CHASING US AROUND AS A KID.

YOU WERE **NORMAL**. NO TESTS OR EXPERIMENTS. AND YOU KNEW WHO YOUR DAD WAS.



AND THEN HE MADE ME A **MONSTER**.

HE'S MESSED UP ALL OF OUR LIVES.

BUT MAYBE HE'S RIGHT ABOUT US STILL HAVING A CHANCE.



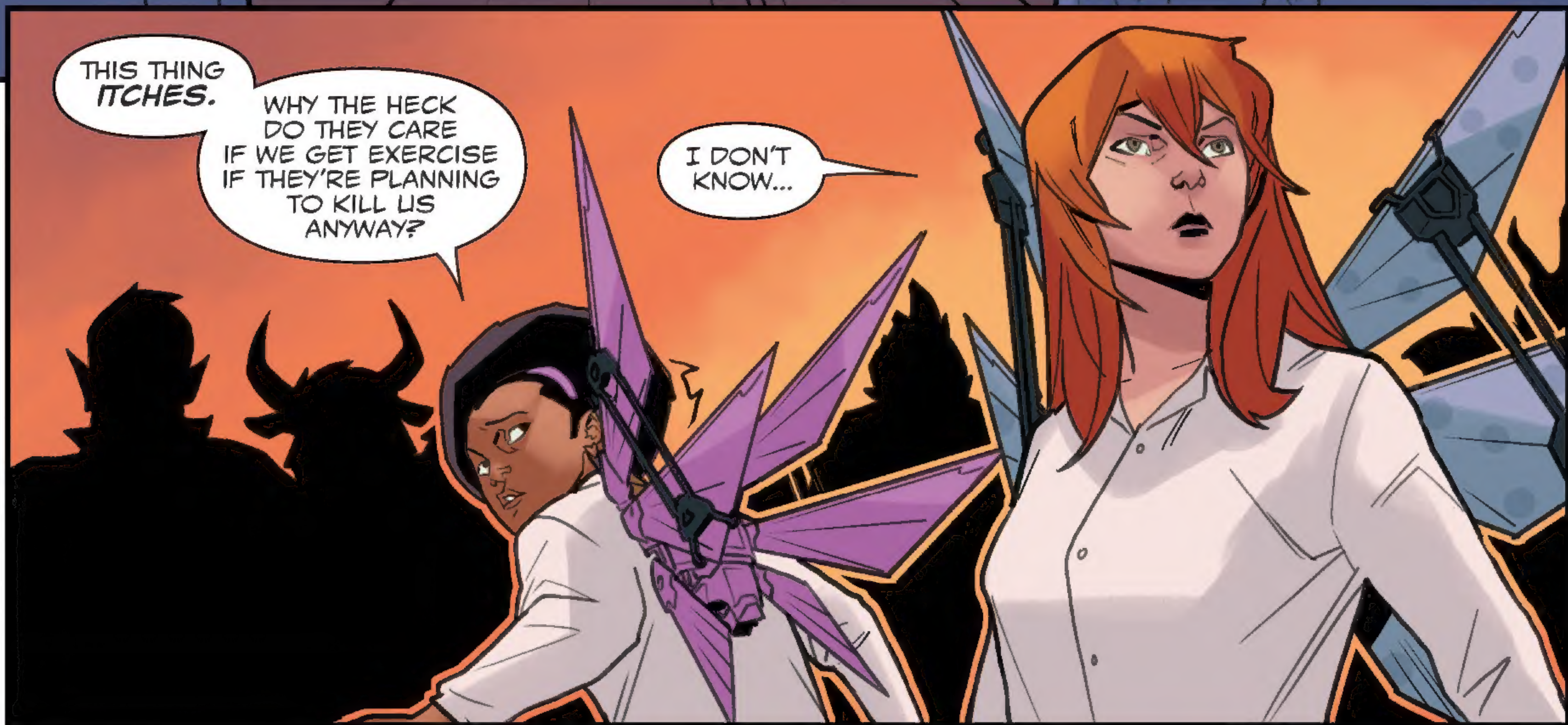
"MAYBE THERE IS  
SOMETHING WE CAN DO  
FROM INSIDE HERE."



THIS THING  
ITCHES.

WHY THE HECK  
DO THEY CARE  
IF WE GET EXERCISE  
IF THEY'RE PLANNING  
TO KILL US  
ANYWAY?

I DON'T  
KNOW...



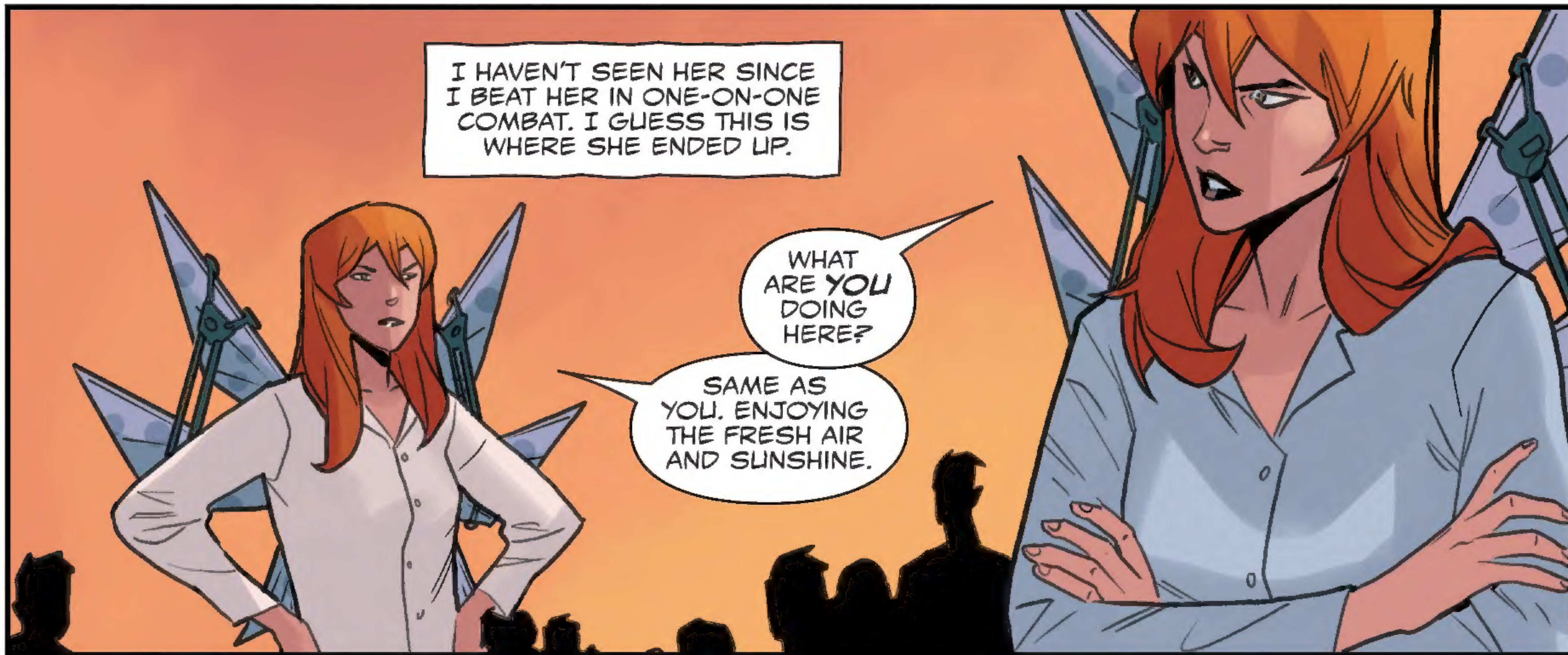
...BUT  
I THINK I KNOW  
SOMEONE WHO  
MIGHT.





WHERE YOU HAVE  
**EVIL SCIENTISTS,**  
YOU HAVE  
**EVIL CLONES.**

"MAX II" TRIED TO  
REPLACE ME IN THE  
FLOCK, BUT SHE  
DIDN'T FOOL ANYONE.



I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE  
I BEAT HER IN ONE-ON-ONE  
COMBAT. I GUESS THIS IS  
WHERE SHE ENDED UP.

WHAT  
ARE **YOU**  
DOING  
HERE?

SAME AS  
YOU. ENJOYING  
THE FRESH AIR  
AND SUNSHINE.



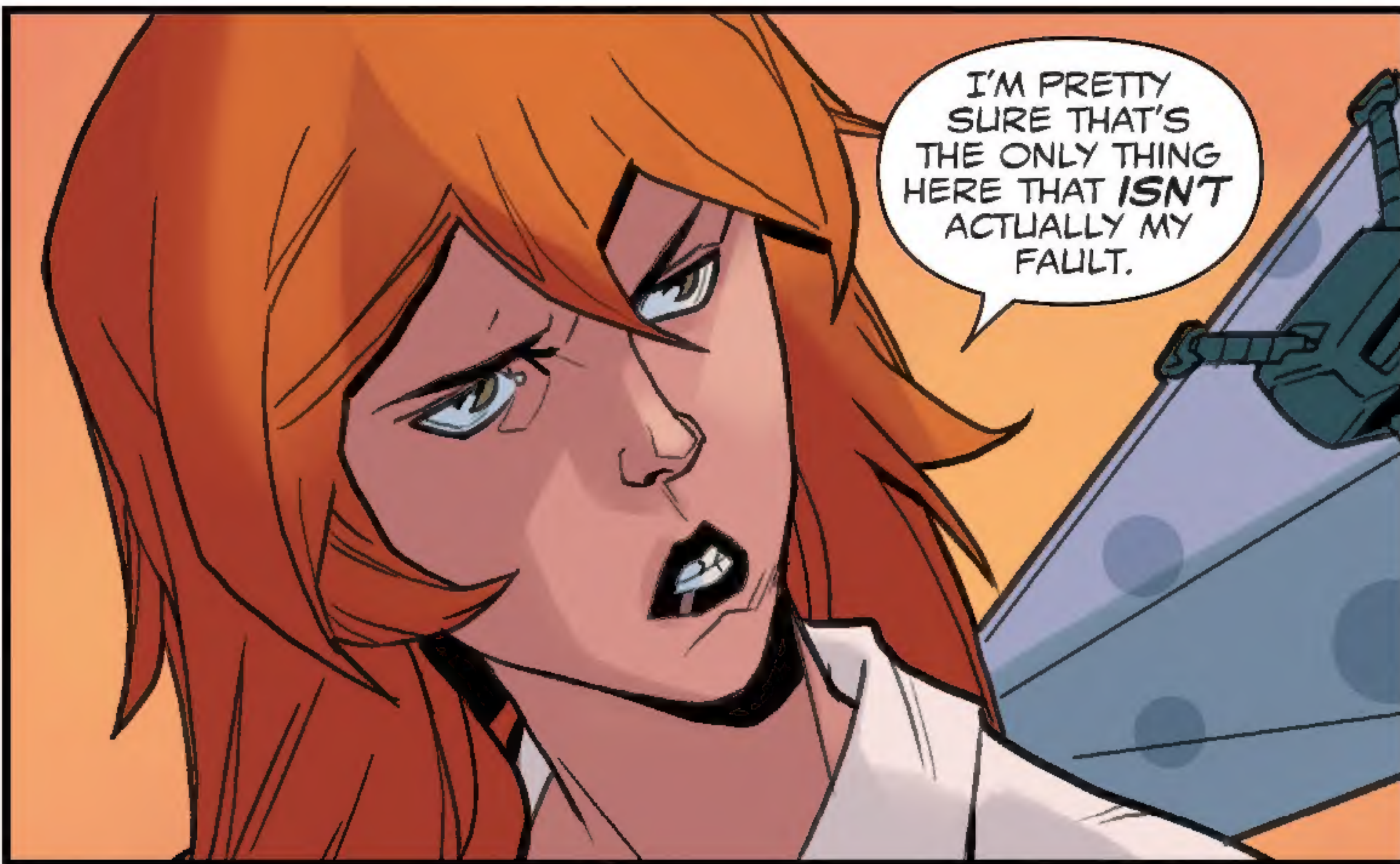
WON'T BE  
ENJOYING IT  
FOR LONG.

WHY?  
WHAT ARE  
THEY DOING  
HERE?

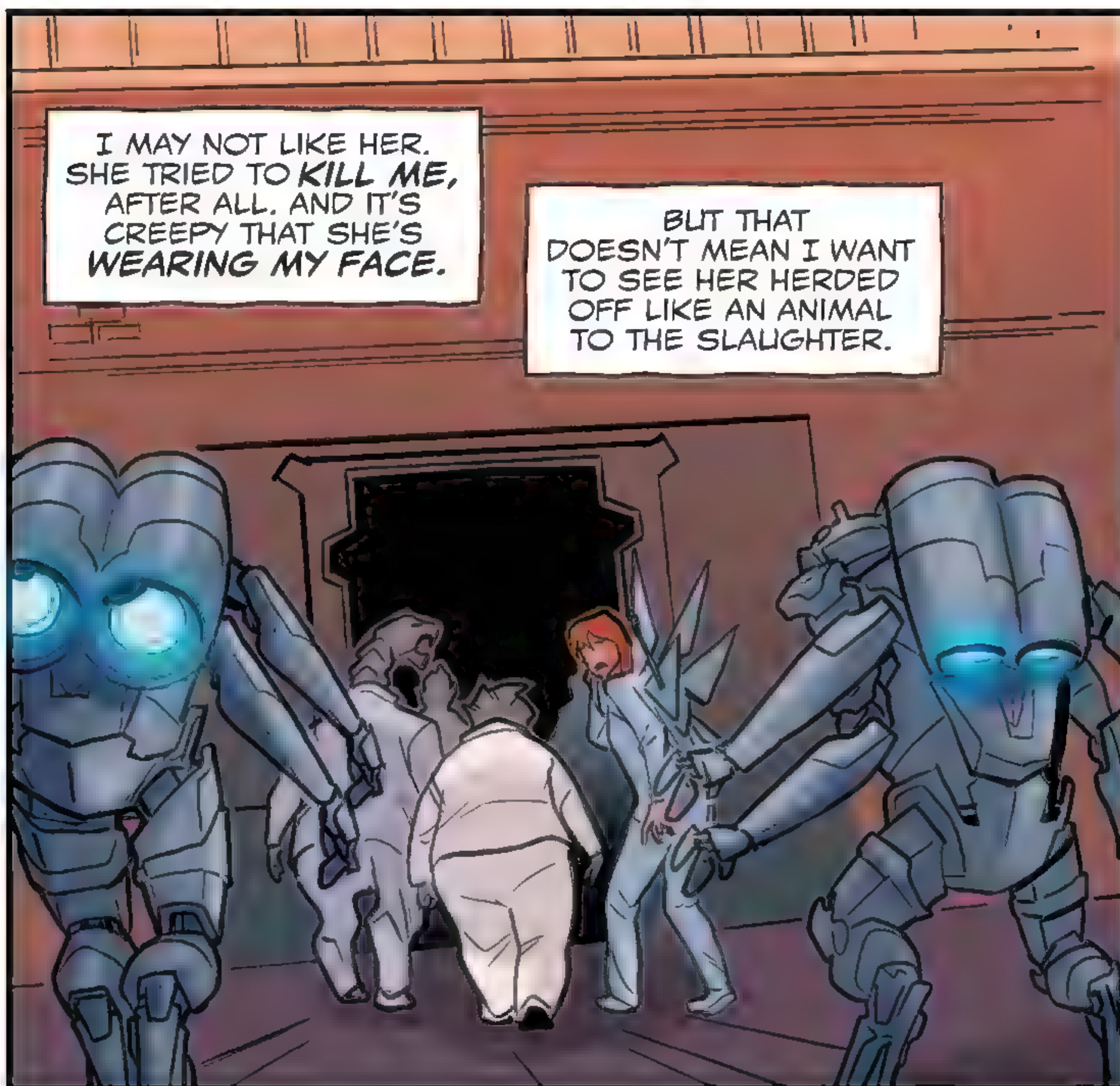


KILLING US. MORE AND  
MORE EVERY DAY. SOON  
THERE WON'T BE ANY OF  
THEIR EXPERIMENTS  
LEFT.

IT'S YOUR  
FAULT I'M IN  
HERE, YOU  
KNOW.



I'M PRETTY  
SURE THAT'S  
THE ONLY THING  
HERE THAT **ISN'T**  
ACTUALLY MY  
FAULT.



LOS ANGELES, 12 HOURS AGO.

HOW MANY MORE SUBSCRIBERS UNTIL YOU GET A COOL SET LIKE THIS?

SERIOUSLY. THESE CHAIRS FEEL **REALLY** NICE.

SORRY ABOUT THEM.

AND THANKS AGAIN FOR HAVING ME ON THE SHOW.



HEY, MAN. BIG FAN OF YOUR WORK.

IF WE CAN HELP YOU GET THE MESSAGE OUT ABOUT WHAT THESE ITX CREEPS ARE DOING...



**BEEP BEEP**

SORRY, I'LL JUST...



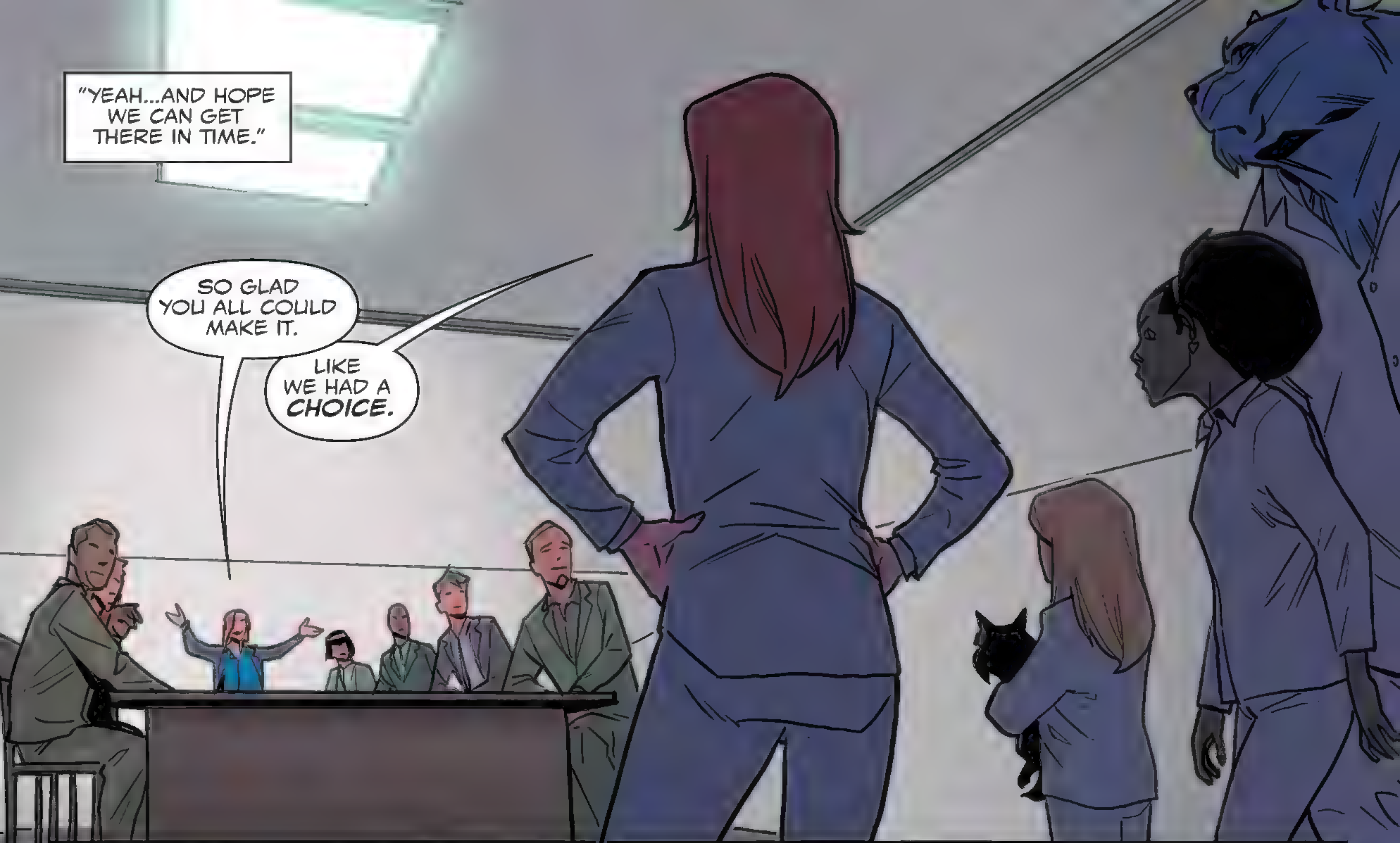
OH, NO...



"YEAH...AND HOPE WE CAN GET THERE IN TIME."

SO GLAD YOU ALL COULD MAKE IT.

LIKE WE HAD A CHOICE.



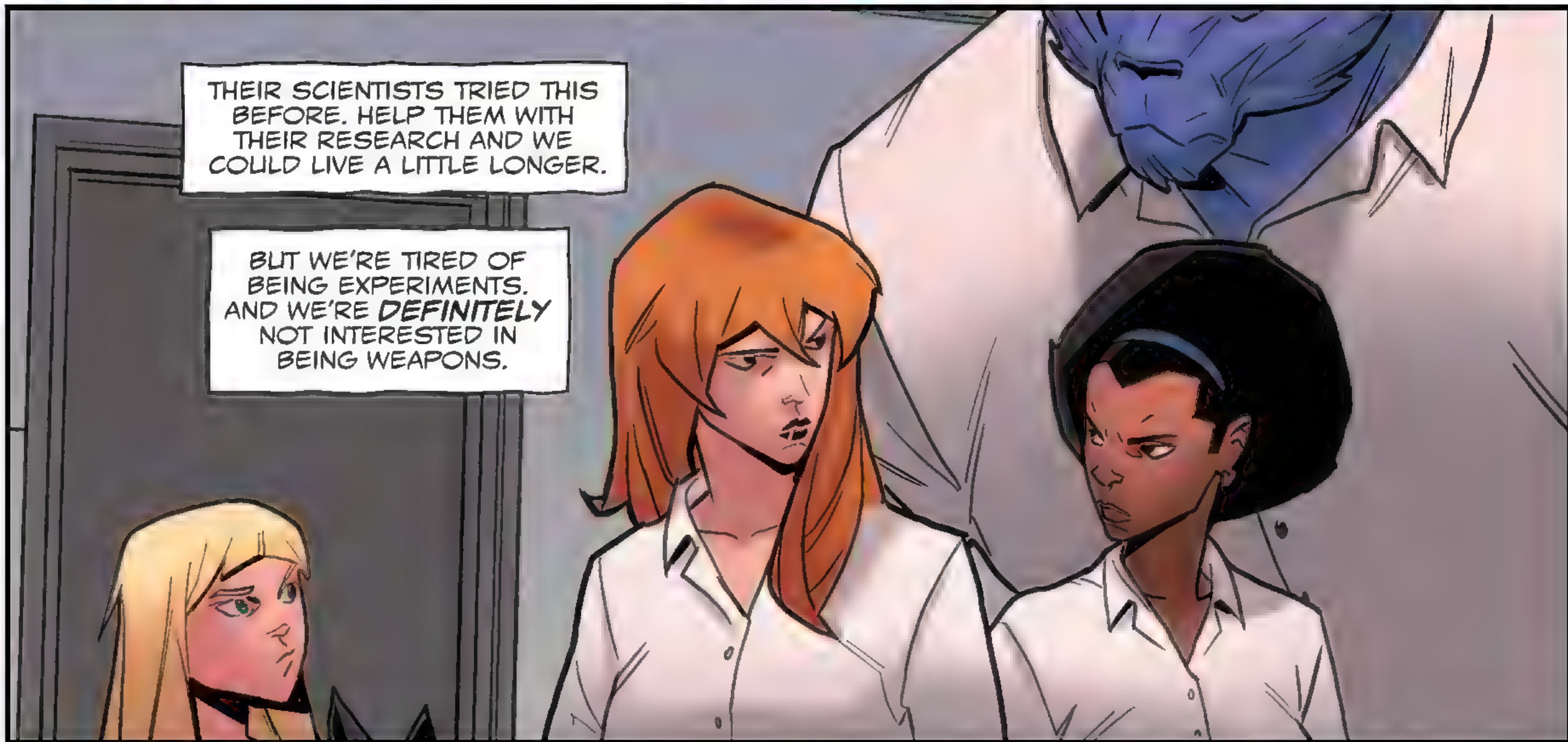
YOU ALWAYS HAVE A CHOICE, MY DEAR.

IN THIS CASE, YOU CAN CHOOSE TO LIVE OR TO DIE.



MY FRIENDS HERE ARE LOOKING TO ACQUIRE SOME... **ADDITIONAL FIREPOWER** TO ENSURE THEIR STAKE IN OUR NEW WORLD.

YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS WOULD SERVE QUITE NICELY.



THEIR SCIENTISTS TRIED THIS BEFORE. HELP THEM WITH THEIR RESEARCH AND WE COULD LIVE A LITTLE LONGER.

BUT WE'RE TIRED OF BEING EXPERIMENTS. AND WE'RE **DEFINITELY** NOT INTERESTED IN BEING WEAPONS.



THE THING ABOUT FAMILY IS THERE'S SO MUCH YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY.

TOO BAD GAZZY ISN'T HERE. HIS FARTS ARE **PERFECT** FOR BIOLOGICAL WARFARE.

BUT I JUST HAVE REGULAR FARTS. PROBABLY WOULDN'T DO MUCH GOOD.



THE FLOCK HAS BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH TOGETHER.

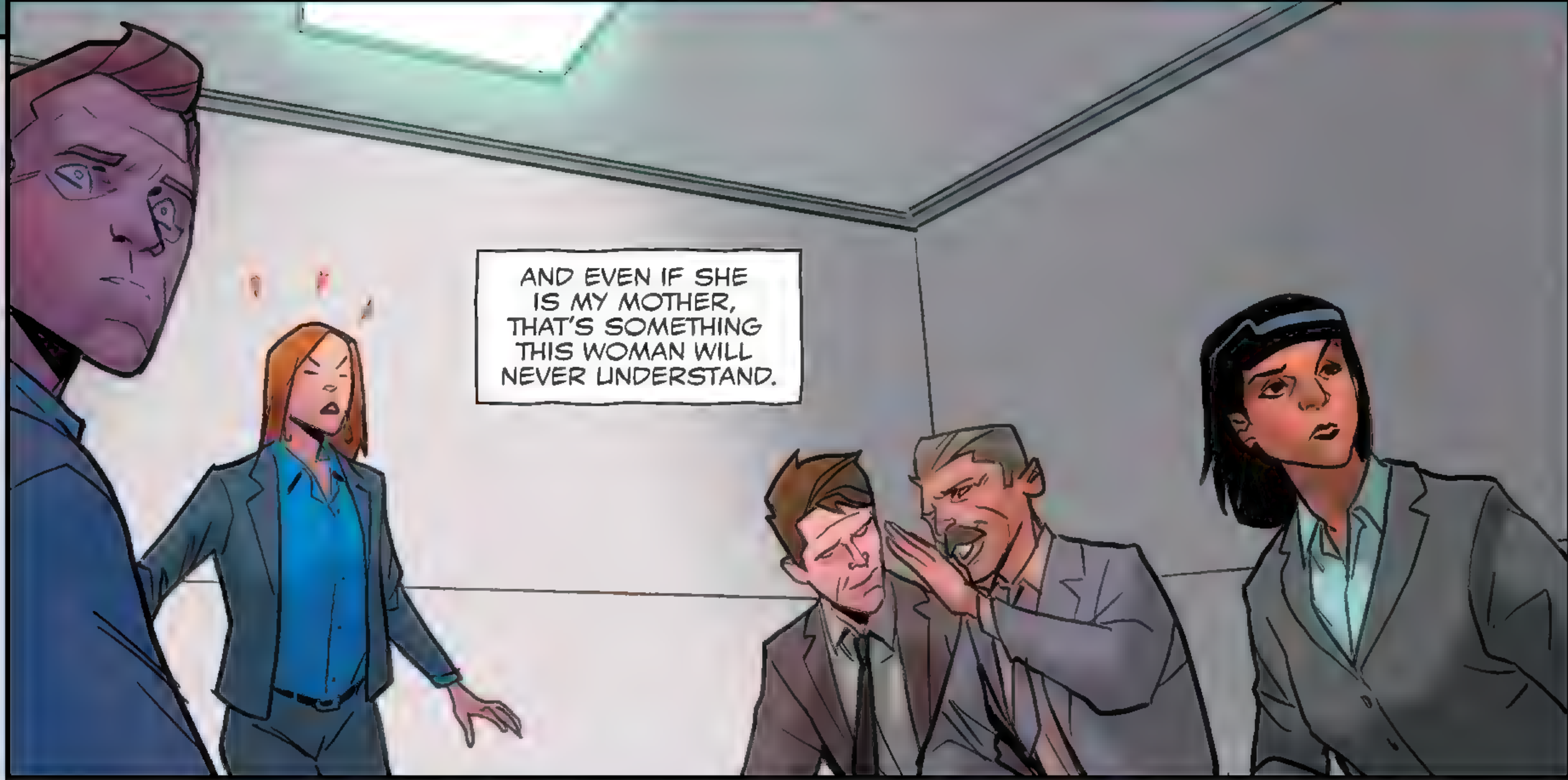
I HAVE A PUPPY.

I'M DYING.

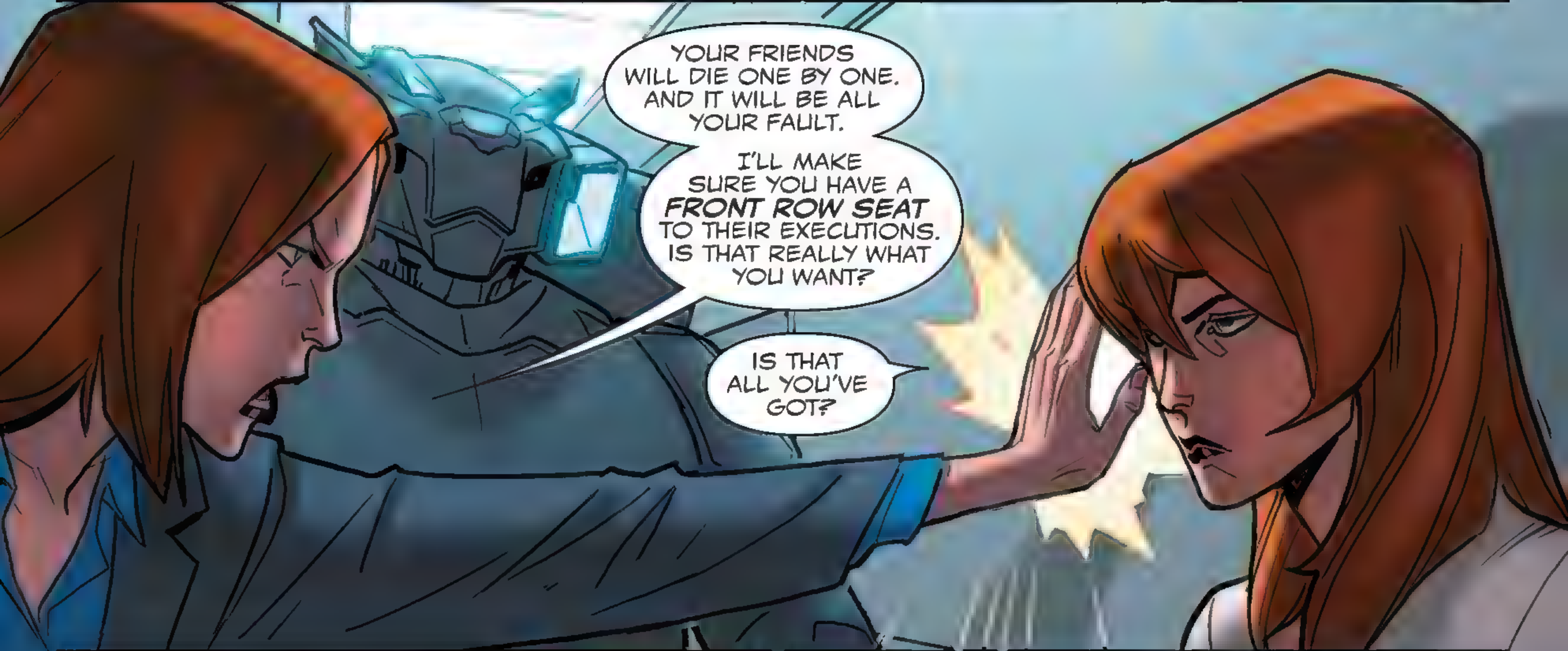
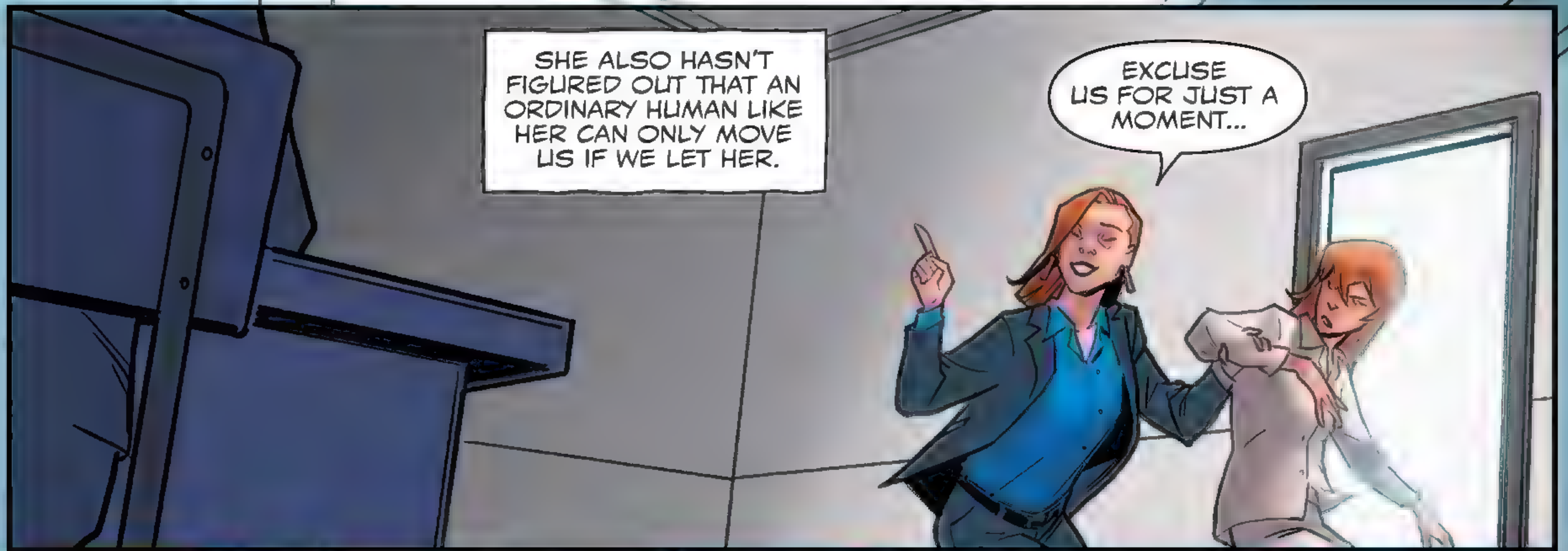
WE KNOW HOW TO WORK TOGETHER TO SURVIVE. IT'S A LESSON WE LEARNED EARLY ON.

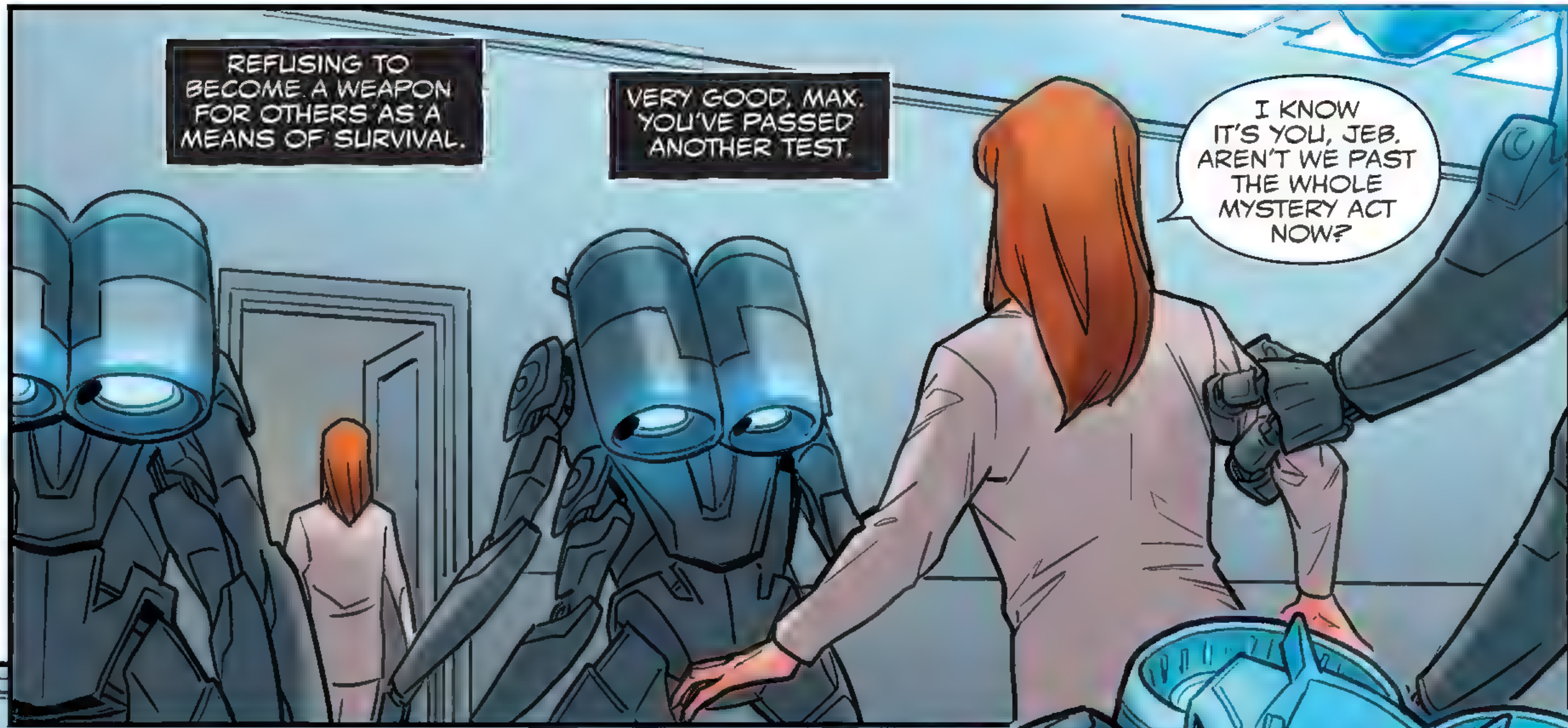


IF WE WERE ANY GOOD AT FIGHTING AND STUFF, WOULD WE REALLY BE PRISONERS HERE?



AND EVEN IF SHE IS MY MOTHER, THAT'S SOMETHING THIS WOMAN WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND.





REFUSING TO  
BECOME A WEAPON  
FOR OTHERS AS A  
MEANS OF SURVIVAL.

VERY GOOD, MAX.  
YOU'VE PASSED  
ANOTHER TEST.

I KNOW  
IT'S YOU, JEB.  
AREN'T WE PAST  
THE WHOLE  
MYSTERY ACT  
NOW?



FOR THE MOMENT,  
THIS IS THE EASIEST  
WAY TO SPEAK.

THERE'S ONE MORE TEST  
COMING FOR YOU, MAX.  
AND IT MAY BE THE MOST  
IMPORTANT ONE OF ALL.



THAT  
HURTS, YOU  
STUPID WALKING  
DUMPSTER!

YOU'LL NEED TO  
SURVIVE IT IF  
THERE'S ANY HOPE  
FOR THE WORLD.

THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
I NEED FROM  
YOU FIRST.

A STRAIGHT  
ANSWER.

IS THE  
DIRECTOR  
REALLY MY  
MOTHER?

AND IF NOT,  
WHO IS?

SHE MAY WANT  
YOU TO THINK SHE'S  
YOUR MOTHER,  
BUT SHE'S NOT.



BUT YOUR  
REAL MOTHER  
IS SOMEONE  
YOU'VE MET.

DR. VALENCIA  
MARTINEZ.

SHE...  
BUT SHE'S...



DR. MARTINEZ'S GENETIC  
MATERIAL WAS COMBINED  
WITH MINE IN ORDER  
TO CREATE YOU.

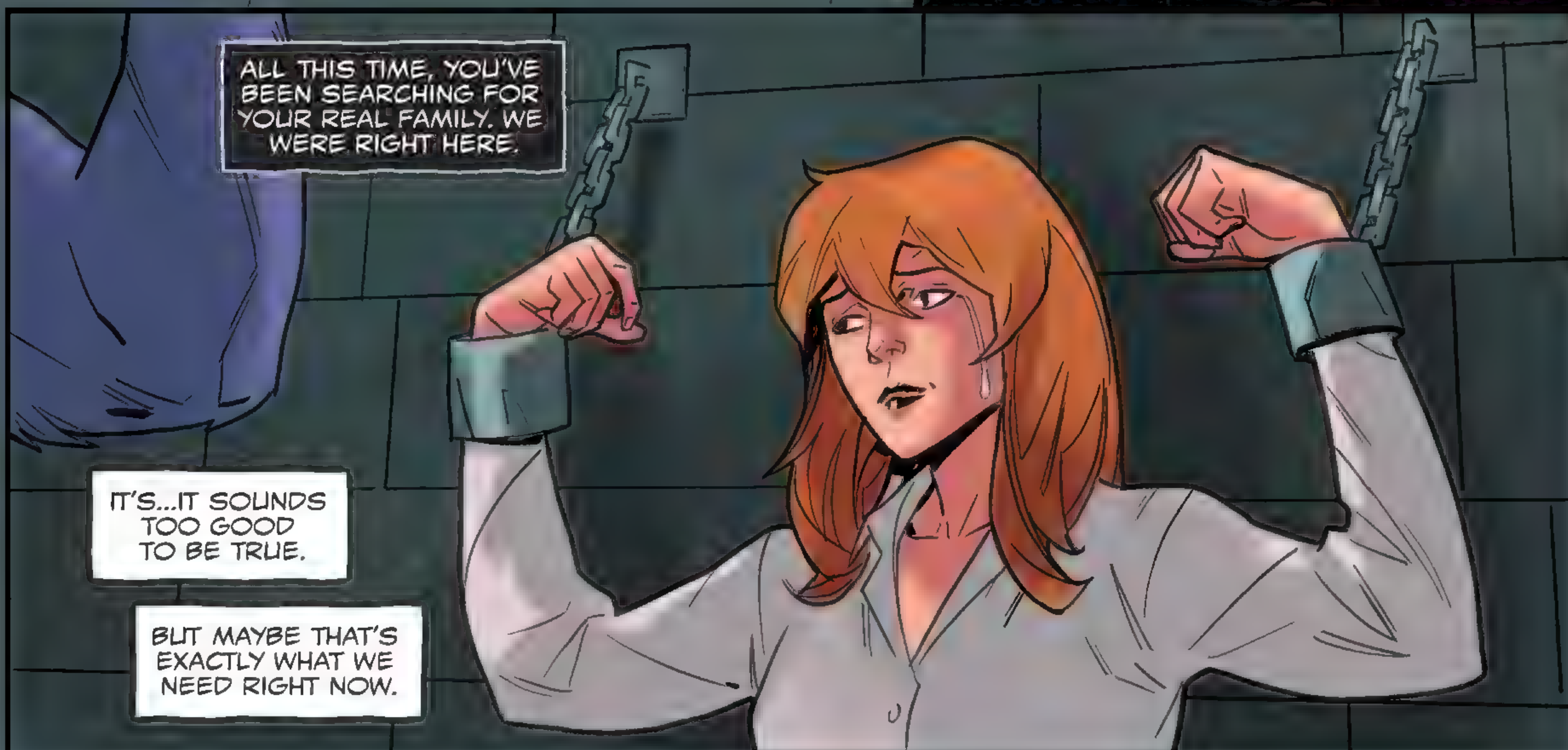
WHICH TECHNICALLY  
MAKES ME YOUR FATHER,  
AND ARI YOUR  
HALF-BROTHER.



ALL THIS TIME, YOU'VE  
BEEN SEARCHING FOR  
YOUR REAL FAMILY. WE  
WERE RIGHT HERE.

IT'S...IT SOUNDS  
TOO GOOD  
TO BE TRUE.

BUT MAYBE THAT'S  
EXACTLY WHAT WE  
NEED RIGHT NOW.

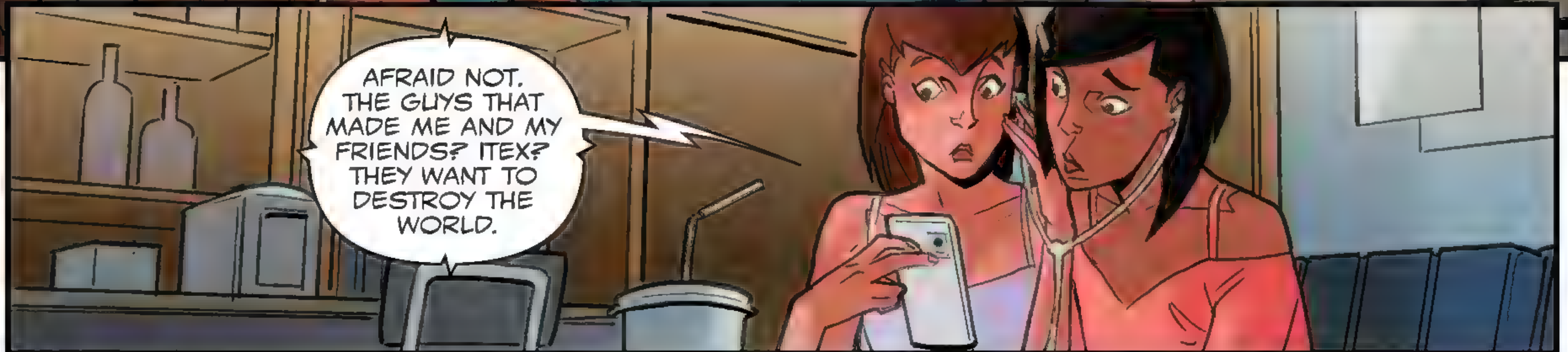




WE'VE BEEN  
A LITTLE SHORT  
ON HOPE LATELY.

...AND SO  
MY FAMILY AND  
I HAVE SPENT THE  
LAST FEW YEARS ON  
THE RUN. WE SWORE  
WE'D NEVER BE  
CAGED AGAIN.

THAT'S A  
CRAZY STORY,  
MAN. AND IT  
DOESN'T END  
THERE, DOES  
IT?



AFRAID NOT.  
THE GUYS THAT  
MADE ME AND MY  
FRIENDS? ITEX?  
THEY WANT TO  
DESTROY THE  
WORLD.

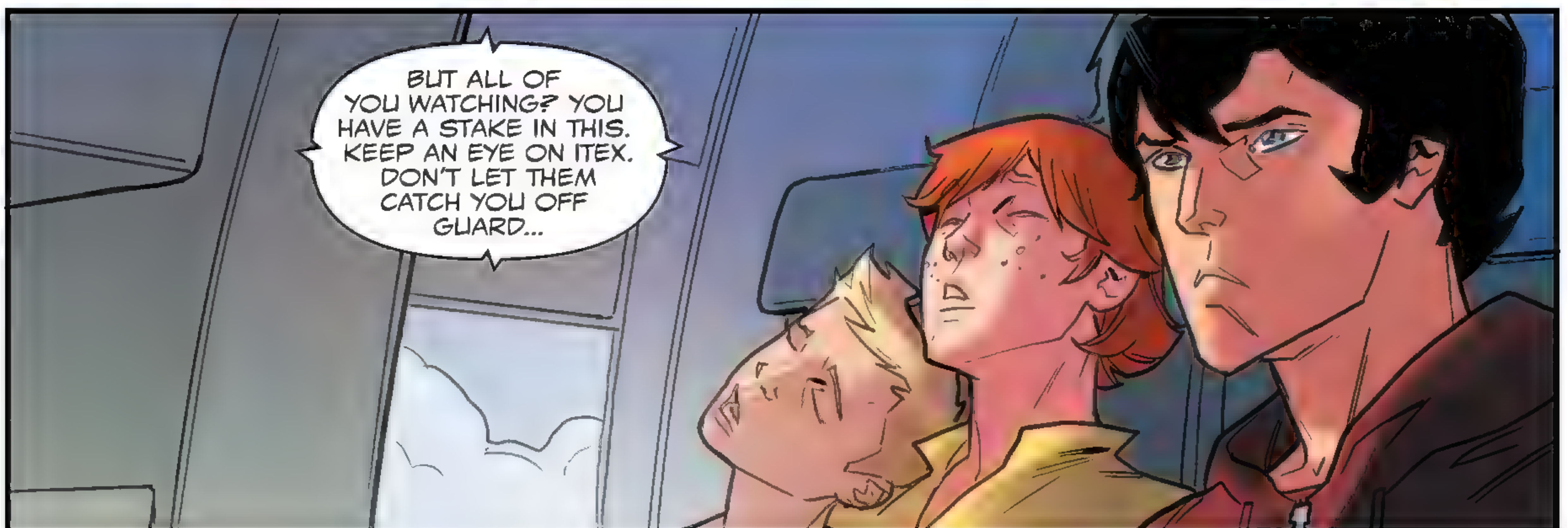


OR AT  
LEAST HALF OF  
THE WORLD. WITH  
ONLY THE PEOPLE  
THEY DEEM  
WORTHY MAKING  
THE CUT.

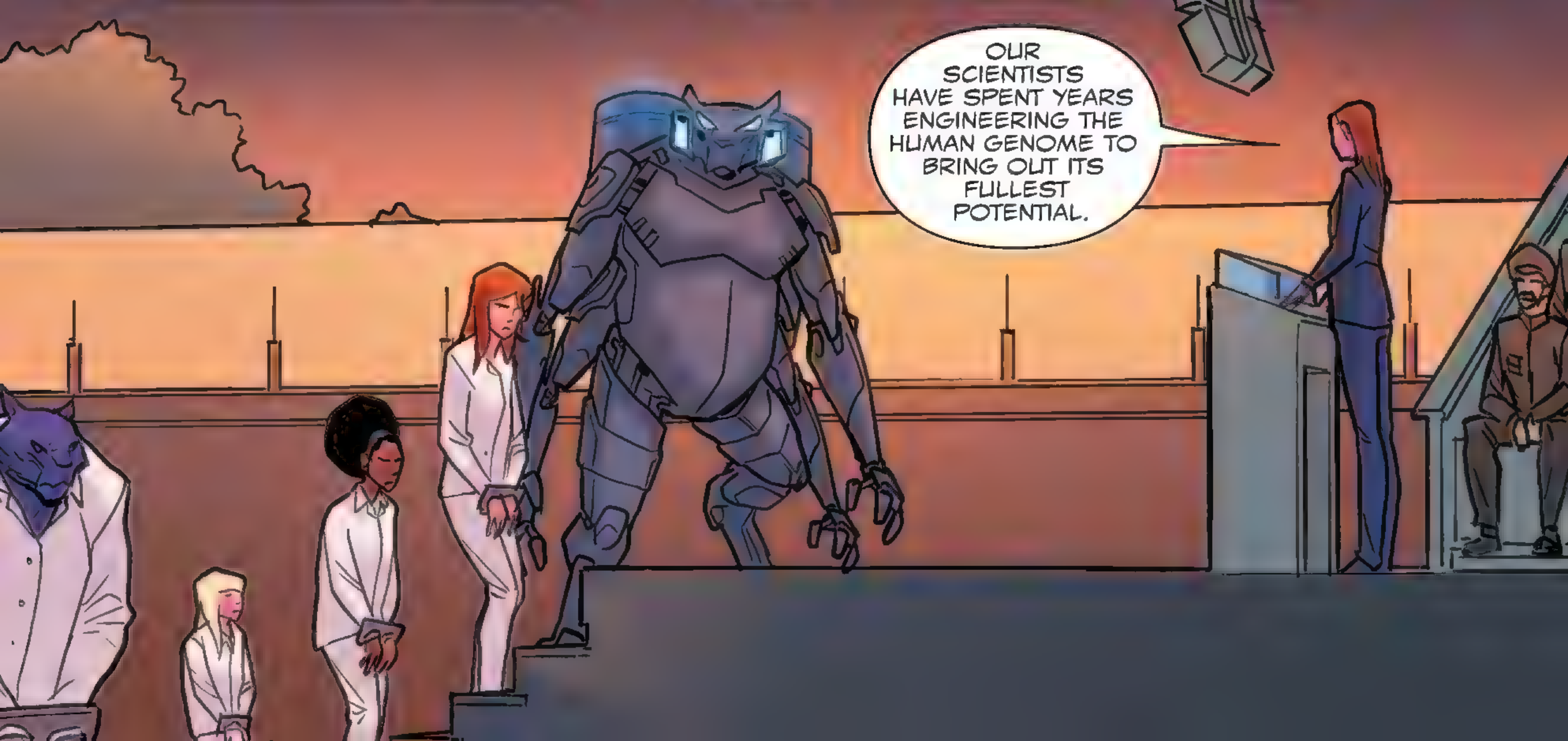
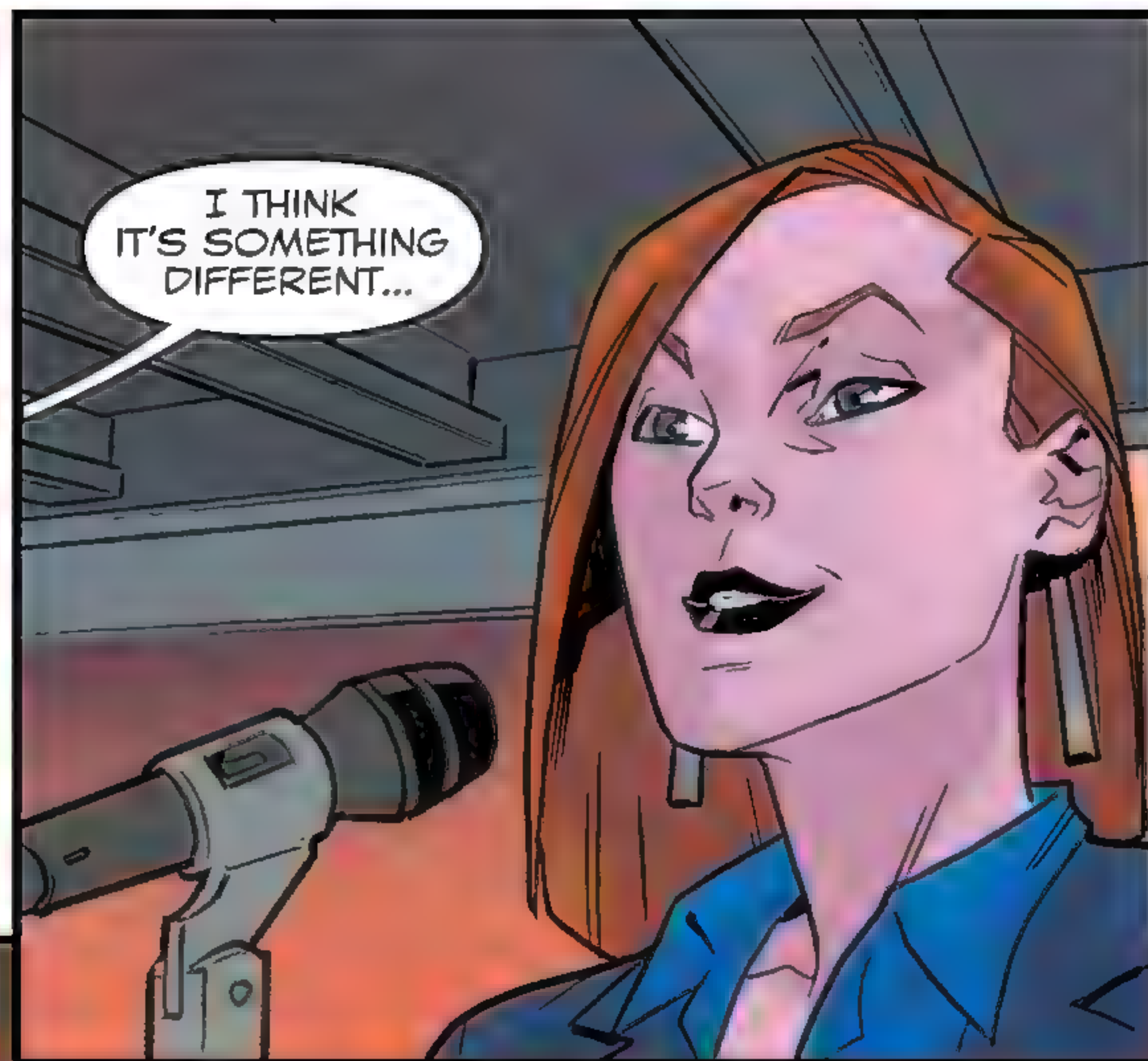
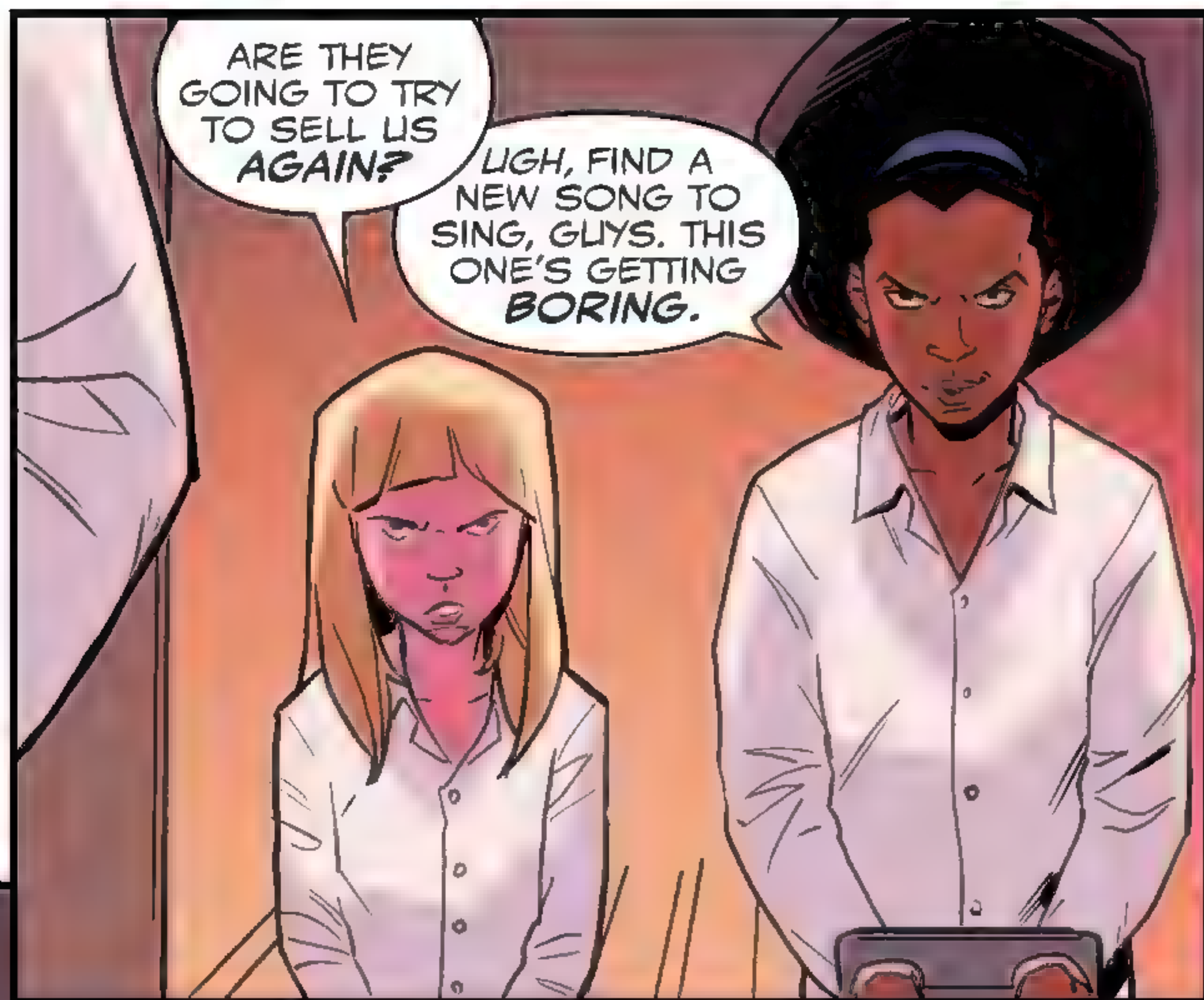


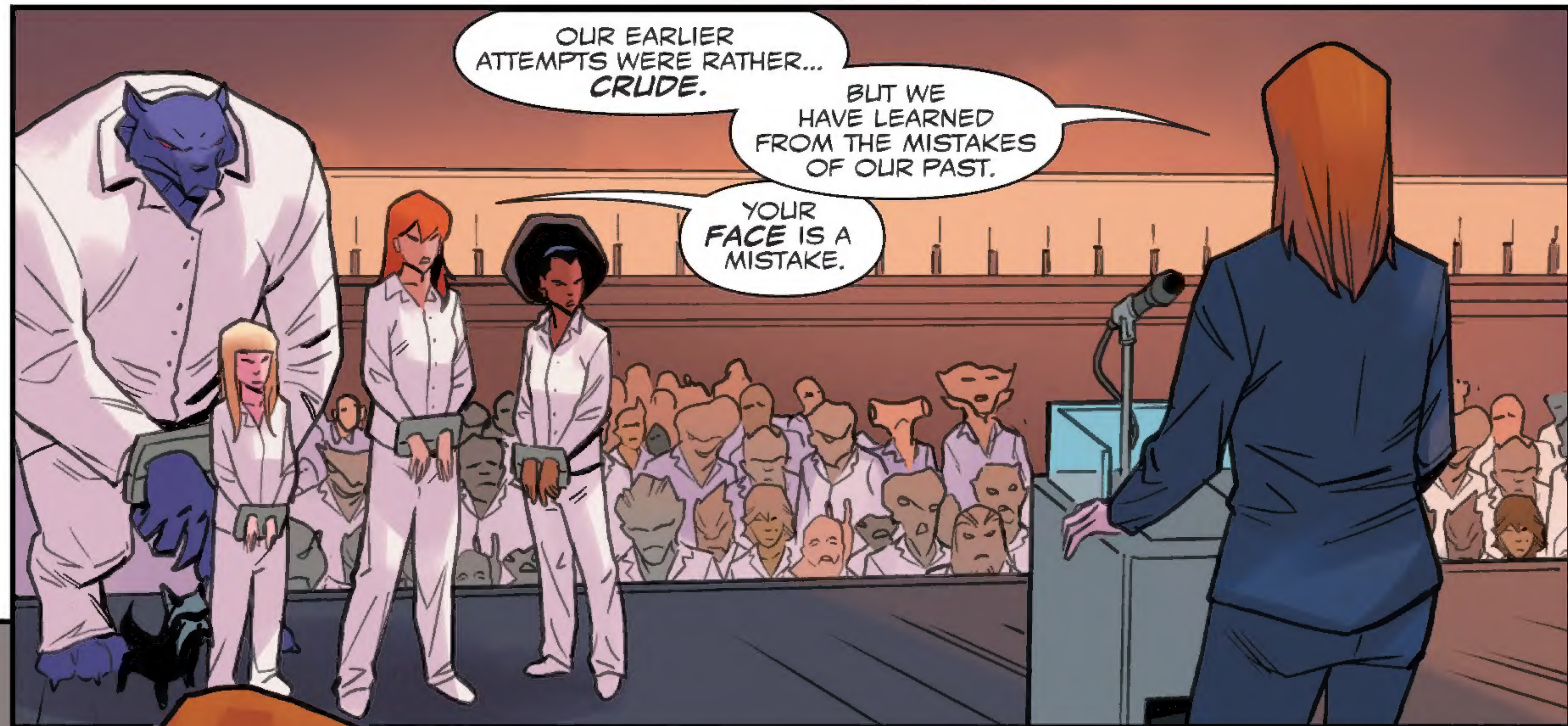
MY FRIENDS AND  
I ARE GOING TO TRY TO  
STOP THEM. BUT THERE'S  
ONLY SIX OF US.

THE ODDS  
DON'T LOOK THAT  
GREAT FROM WHERE  
I'M SITTING.



BUT ALL OF  
YOU WATCHING? YOU  
HAVE A STAKE IN THIS.  
KEEP AN EYE ON ITEX.  
DON'T LET THEM  
CATCH YOU OFF  
GUARD...





OUR EARLIER  
ATTEMPTS WERE RATHER...  
**CRUDE.**

BUT WE  
HAVE LEARNED  
FROM THE MISTAKES  
OF OUR PAST.

YOUR  
**FACE** IS A  
MISTAKE.



MEET  
**OMEGA**, THE  
PINNACLE OF OUR  
ENGINEERING  
EFFORTS.

FAR STRONGER,  
FASTER, AND MORE  
INTELLIGENT THAN  
NATURE ALONE COULD  
PRODUCE.

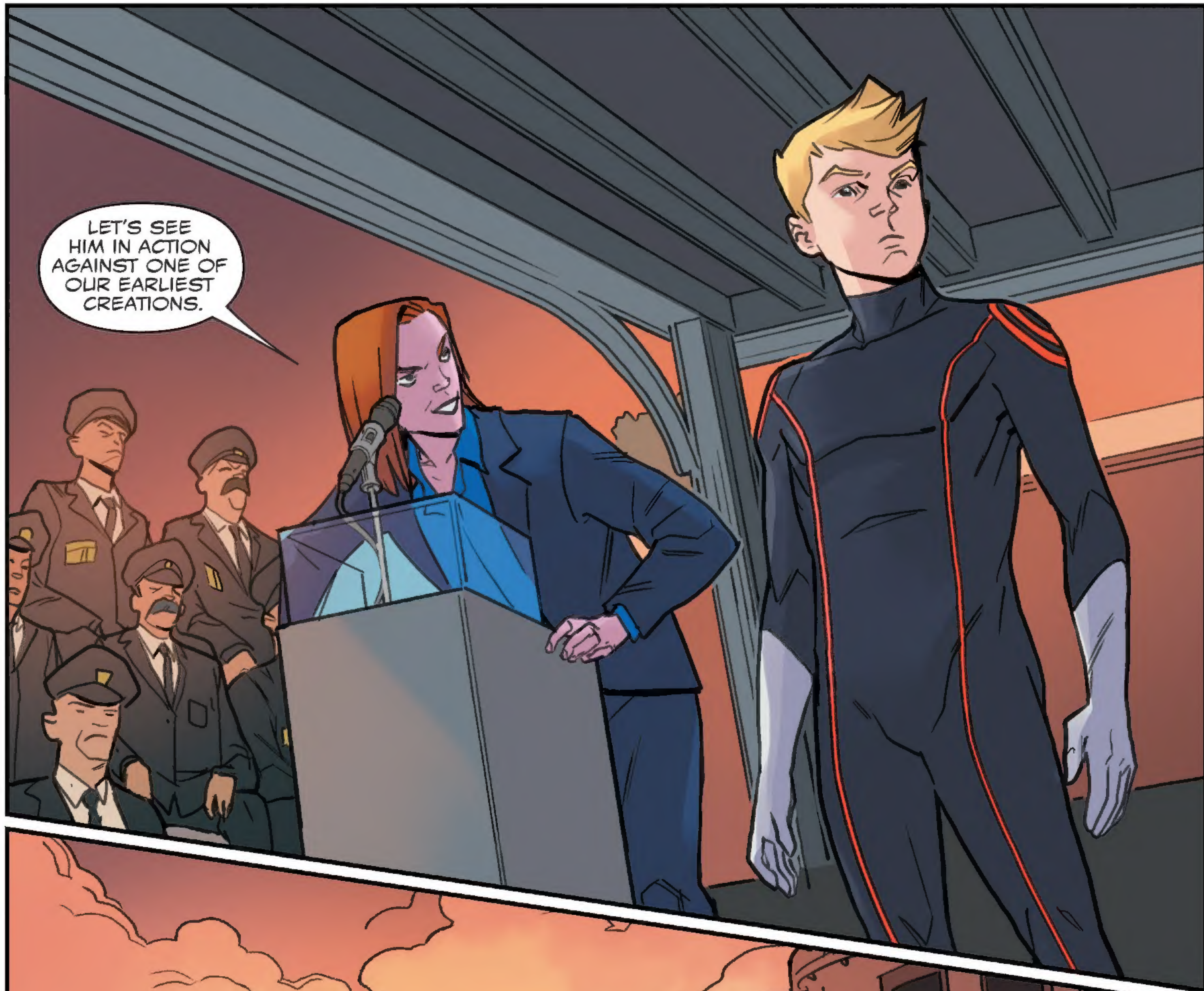


HE IS AS CLOSE  
TO PERFECTION AS  
HUMANITY CAN POSSIBLY  
ACHIEVE, INCLUDING HIS  
ABILITY TO **OBEY**  
**ORDERS.**

I HAVE A  
BAD FEELING  
ABOUT THIS...



BUT WHY TAKE  
MY WORD WHEN  
YOU CAN SEE ALL HE'S  
CAPABLE OF FOR  
YOURSELVES?



LET'S SEE  
HIM IN ACTION  
AGAINST ONE OF  
OUR EARLIEST  
CREATIONS.



MAXIMUM  
RIDE.

TO BE CONCLUDED!

**NEXT:**

JAMES PATTERSON

# MAX RIDE

FINAL FLIGHT



edna  
10.16  
crown

